

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 01682 221644Z

47

ACTION EUR-06

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R 221435Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8459

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL RO

SUBJ: COUNTRY TEAM EVALUATION OF WISEMAN FILMS

REF: A) BUCHAREST 1610 B) STATE 76833

1. COUNTRY TEAM REPRESENTATIVES HAVE NOW SCREENED ALL FIVE FRED WISEMAN ZIPPORAH FILM PRODUCTION 16-MM PRINTS PROVIDED BY AGENCY (BASIC TRAINING, HOSPITAL, JUVENILE COURT, LAW AND ORDER, ESSENE) AND HAVE REACHED EFFECTIVE CONSENSUS REGARDING PROGRAM POTENTIAL OF THIS WORK IN ROMANIA.

2. WHILE POST GREATLY AND FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY QUALITY OF THESE FILMS IN TERMS OF BOTH TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AND ARTISTIC INTEGRITY, WE FEEL THAT THESE CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED HERE. FILMS UNQUESTIONABLY MAKE SCRUPULOUS EFFORT TO ESCHEW GRATUITOUS EDITORIALIZING, ALLOWING CAMERA ITSELF TO COMMENT IN CINEMA-VERITE STYLE OF DOCUMENTARY COVERAGE. AT SAME TIME, WHILE WISEMAN CLEARLY SIDES WITH UNDER-DOG ASPECT OF KEY ELEMENTS OF U.S. SOCIETY AND ITS INSTITUTIONS, HE DOES MAKE HONEST EFFORT PRESENT DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. OVERALL THRUST OF EACH FILM, HOWEVER, LEAVES VIEWER WITH IMPRESSION THAT U.S. IS NOT A VERY COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY AND THAT SOME INEGALITARIAN ASPECTS HAVE BECOME HOPELESSLY INSTITUTIONALIZED. SUCH IMPRESSIONS, NEEDLESS TO SAY, ARE NOT WHAT WE WISH TO PRESENT IN ROMANIA, EVEN AMONG A SOPHISTICATED ELITE (MOVIE MAKERS, LITERARY PERSONALITIES, ETC.) SUSCEPTIBLE OF DRAWING MORE "POSITIVE"

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 01682 221644Z

CONCLUSIONS FROM FILM MATERIAL THAN WE.

3. DESPITE OUR NEGATIVE APPRAISAL OF THESE FILMS IN TERMS OF LOCAL PROGRAMMING POTENTIAL (OR PERHAPS EVEN BECAUSE OF SUCH APPRAISAL), POST WARMLY APPRECIATES AGENCY'S DECISION PERMIT COUNTRY TEAM TO SCREEN MATERIAL OF THIS SORT AND DEVELOP EVALUATION SPECIFICALLY ORIENTED WITHIN CONTEXT OF LOCAL OBJECTIVES AND EXPERIENCE. WE BELIEVE THIS TO BE AN INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT IN THE REVIEWING PROCESS FOR ANY AGENCY-SUPPLIED "PRODUCT", WHETHER FILM, BOOK, MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION, EXHIBIT, OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS ITEM. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED "PARTICIPATORY" REVIEW OF THIS KIND.

BARNES

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FILMS, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
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Draft Date: 22 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUCHAR01682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740093-1122
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740426/aaaaawjt.tel
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